

XXXIII. *Characters of various new Groups and Species amongst the Coprophagous Lamellicorn Beetles.* By J. O. WESTWOOD, F.L.S. &c.

[Read 7th March, 1842, &c.]

AS CONSIDERABLE interest is attached to the various types of form amongst the species of insects known by the ordinary name of sacred beetles (on account of the veneration with which the Egyptians regarded those particular species which are inhabitants of their strange land,) I need offer no apology in submitting to the notice of the members of this Society descriptions and figures of various new and interesting species belonging to that family lately arrived in this country.

One of these insects possesses characters differing so much from those of all the rest of the true and typical subgenus *Heliocantharus*, to which it is most nearly allied, that I am induced to regard it as possessing a higher rank than that of a mere species of that group; at the same time it is to be admitted that it seems scarcely entitled to an equal rank with the types of form which Mr. MacLeay has named *Mnematum*, *Pachysoma* and *Gymno-pleurus*.

SEBASTEOS, *Westw.*

Typus Scarabæorum sacrorum, *Heliocantharo* magis affinis.

Antennæ articulo 3tio et 4to 5to duplo longioribus, subæqualibus, 5to et 6to brevibus, pateriformibus; 7mo, 8vo et 9vo clavam angustiolem formantibus. Caput maximum. Clypeus radiatus, dentibus duobus anticis obtusis, intermediis latis truncatis, posticis duobus angulatis; clypeus subtus antice dentibus tribus deflexis armatus. Tibiæ anticæ angulatæ, extus 4-dentatæ, dentibus duobus apicalibus inter se remotis, intus serratulæ denteque medio armatæ. Tarsi antici obsoleti; postici 2 articulis subclavatis verticillatis.

Of these characters the variation in the relative size of the intermediate joints of the antennæ, the large size of the head, the curious horns with which the under side of the projecting lobes of the clypeus are armed, the curved fore legs armed on the inside beyond the middle with a short tooth, and the form of the hind tarsi, are those by which it is most easily distinguished from the true *Heliocanthari*.

Sp. unica. *Scarabæus (Sebasteos) Galenus*, Westw.

(Pl. XVII. fig. 1.)

Niger, nitidus, capite magno varioloso-punctato, pronoto punctato, margine postico lævi; elytris stria suturali alterisque quinque tenuibus sub lente punctatis; disco tenuissime punctato; pronoto utrinque versus marginem lateralem puncto majori impresso notato.

Long. corp. lin. 14.

Habitat in Africa meridionali. D. Burke.

In Mus. Soc. Zool. Lond.

This is one of the fine species of insects brought to England by Mr. Burke, and presented by the Earl of Derby to the Zoological Society of London, and which were captured in the hilly country lying between 25° and 26° south lat. and 27° and 28° east long.

Plate XVII. fig. 1, the insect of the natural size; 1 *a*, the head seen sideways; 1 *b*, the mentum and labial palpus; 1 *c*, the antenna; 1 *d*, intermediate tibia and tarsus; 1 *e*, posterior tarsus.

SCELIAGES, *Westw.* (in *Trans. Zool. Soc.* ii. p. 159.)

Sceliages Hippias, Westw. (Pl. XVII. fig. 2.)

Niger, nitidus, capite sub lente tenuissime punctato; clypeo cornubus duobus intermediis porrectis; pronoto fere lævi, elytrisque sublævibus et minus nitidis, singulo striis 6 vix discernendis; tibiis anticis haud in medio angulatis, extus 4-dentatis et serrulatis, metasterno antice producto et convexo-prominulo.

Long. corp. lin. 8.

Habitat in Africa meridionali. D. Burke.

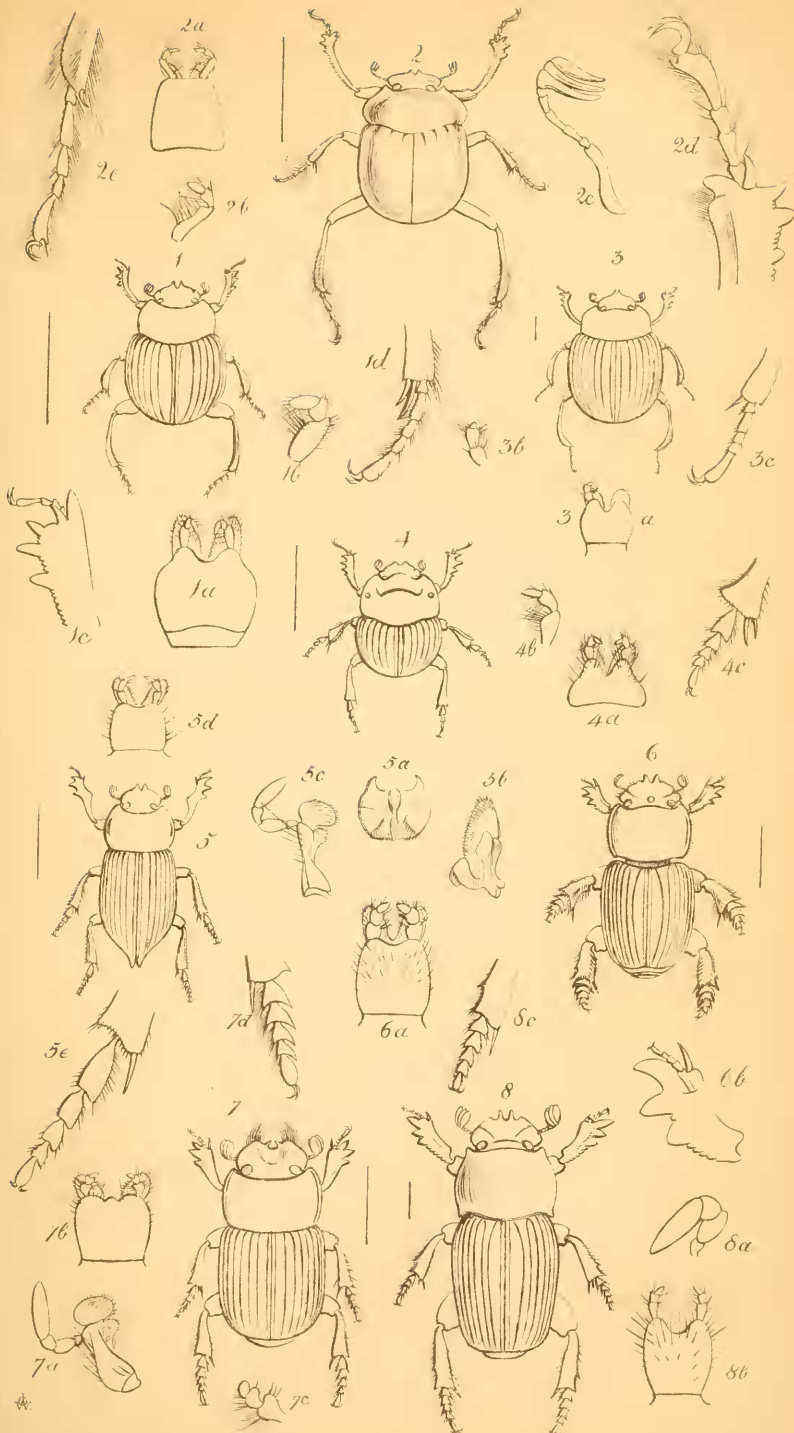
In Mus. Soc. Zool. Lond.

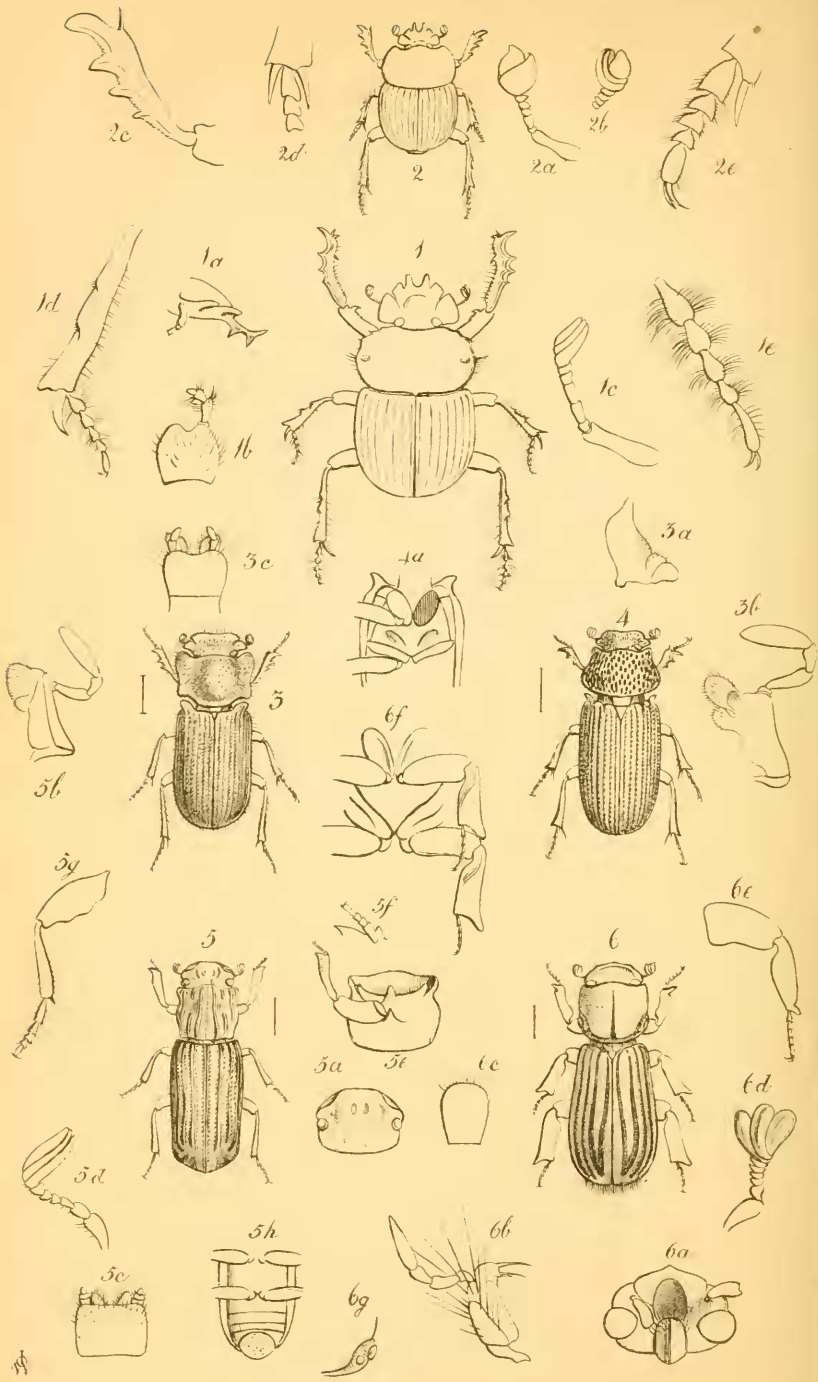
This species is distinguished from the *Sceliages Iopas*, described by me in the Transactions of the Zoological Society, by its less dilated form, as well as by the characters mentioned above.

Plate XVII. fig. 2, the insect of the natural size; 2 *a*, the antenna; 2 *b*, the clava of the antenna seen from the opposite side; 2 *c*, anterior tibia; 2 *d*, base of middle tarsus; 2 *e*, posterior tarsus.

EPILISSUS, *Dej. Cat.*

The genus *Epilissus* of *Dejcan's Catalogue*, adopted by *Reiche* in his synopsis of the Ateuchideous genera, published in the





“Revue Zoologique,” (1841, p. 212,) consists of Madagascar insects which differ very much from each other in several respects, so that I am induced to describe several of them as the types of respective subgenera. Retaining the *Canthon prasinus* of Klug, (Mad. Col. p. 73,) as the type of the typical subgenus, we find it distinguished by the following characters:—

Mentum latum, suborbiculare, antice valde emarginatum. *Palpi* labiales crassi, articulo ultimo præcedenti longitudine æquali. *Prothorax* lateribus fere rotundatis, haud reflexis. *Elytra* prothorace manifeste latiora, fere rotundata striata. *Pedes* parum elongati. *Femora* brevia, subtriangularia. *Tibiæ* anticæ elongato-triangularis, depressæ, rectæ; margine externo serrulato, extus acute tridentatæ. *Tibiæ* 4 posticæ curvatæ, basi gracillimæ, apice sensim dilatato. *Tarsi* antici minutissimi; 4 postici tibiæ fere dimidio longitudine, articulo basali breviori, ultimo simplici, unguibus curvatis.

Plate XVI. fig. 1, *Epilissus prasinus*; 1 a, instrumenta labialia; 1 b, labial palpus; 1 c, anterior tibia and tarsus; 1 d, intermediate tibia and tarsus.

The *Canthon viridis* of Latreille, figured by Guérin in the “Iconographie du Règne Animal,” pl. 21, fig. 3, (Griffith, An. Kingd. Ins. pl. 45, fig. 4,) is evidently congeneric with *E. prasinus*; indeed Dr. Klug (Col. Mad. p. 73) suggests that it may be the female of that species.

Another beautiful species, described by Laporte under the name of *Circellium nitidum* (Hist. Nat. Ins. Col. vol. 2, p. 66), presents the following subgeneric characters, and may be named, from the great length of its feet, which give it a resemblance to a spider,

ARACHNODES, *Westw.*

Mentum basi latius, lateribus convergentibus, apice haud emarginatum. *Palpi* labiales graciles, articulo ultimo præcedenti fere dimidio minori. *Antennarum* clava elongata. *Prothorax* lateribus pone medium valde angulatis et reflexis. *Elytra* prothorace vix latiora, magis quadrata, haud striata. *Pedes* valde elongati, graciles. *Femora* elongata, parum compressa. *Tibiæ* anticæ graciles, ante apicem subito intus curvatæ et setosæ, margine externo serrulato, apice dentibus tribus parvis obtusis. *Tibiæ* 4 posticæ graciles, parum curvatæ, apice compresso et valde setoso, calcaribus minutis. *Tarsi* antici fere tibiæ dimidio longitudine; 4 postici tibiæ dimidio plus longiores, omnes compressi, valde setosi, articulo basali

minimo, 2ndo duobus sequentibus longiori, 5to latiori ad apicem subtus in spinam parvam producto; unguibus valde curvatis.

Plate XVI. fig. 2, *Arachnodes nitidus*; 2a, instrumenta labialia; 2b, labial palpus; 2c, antenna; 2d, anterior tarsus; 2e, posterior tarsus.

The *Circellium clypeatum* of Laporte, (Hist. Nat. Ins. Col. vol. 2, p. 67,) will form another subgenus, distinguished by its very depressed form, short prothorax, having the sides rounded, the elytra striated, the mesosternum channelled down the middle, and the tibiæ very much curved.

The insects above described are of comparatively large size, being more than half an inch long and of splendid green tints; but there are several much more minute species of a black colour, also natives of Madagascar, which are, in fact, the pygmies of the family of the sacred beetles, not exceeding one-eighth of an inch in length. They may be characterized thus:—

NANOS, Westw.

Antennarum clava brevis, subrotundata. *Mentum* in medio latius, antice valde emarginatum. *Palpi* labiales brevissimi, lati; articulis 1 et 2 fere æqualibus, 3tio minimo. *Prothorax* lateribus fere rotundatis, haud reflexis. *Elytra* prothorace evidentè latiora, fere rotundata, lævissime striata. *Pedes* parum elongati, sublæves. *Femora* postica subovalia. *Tibiæ* anticæ curvatæ, depressæ, sensim latiores, apice extus 3-dentatæ; tibiæ 4 posticæ curvatæ, versus apicem paullo latiores. *Tarsi* antici mediocres, 4 postici longiores, unguibus valde curvatis.

Circellium pygmæus, Laporte. Hist. Nat. Col. 2, p. 67, is the type of this subgenus.

Plate XVI. fig. 3, *Nanos pygmæus*; 3a, instrumenta labialia; 3b, labial palpus; 3c, posterior tibia and tarsus.

The remaining groups, which I propose to describe in this communication, belong to that section of the *Scarabæidæ* which possess short and triangularly dilated posterior tibiæ, and the tarsal joints of the hind feet gradually narrowed, of which *Copris* is the typical genus.

MACRODERES, Westw.

Corpus fere hæmisphæricum. *Clypeus* antice emarginatus, laciniis obtusis, postice transverse carinatus. *Mentum* sub-